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Africana in LC and DD classification schemes: a need for an Africana scheme?
H O M IWUJI 1–18

The article examines in some detail the provisions made for African subjects in the Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal Classification schemes, two schemes in general use in Africa. It notes some gross inadequacies of these schemes in classing African subjects, especially in the social sciences and humanities. It suggests extensive modifications of existing schemes rather than attempting to devise an entirely different scheme for Africana, but such modifications should be concerted, and not left to the whims and caprices of individual classifiers.

Using management information in a polytechnic library
PHILIP PAYNE and JEAN MARIE WILLERS 19–35

The pressures on librarians to utilize management information are outlined. The practical applications made of management information based on data from the SWALCAP shared circulation system in a polytechnic library are then described. Difficulties and opportunities are rehearsed, with some suggestions for the better take-up of management information for policy and decision making.

Library cooperation in Kenya
JAPHET N OTIKE 36–48

The article analyses current library cooperation in Kenya. In an attempt to understand the situation, a brief account of the country's information infrastructure is provided. Effort has been made to provide a detailed account of the cooperative programmes currently in existence, though it is noted that many of these programmes still remain informal. Problems hindering effective cooperation have been isolated. It is felt that many of these obstacles could be overcome with the formulation by the government of a national information policy.

Library and information plans: a review of the literature
BRENDA WHITE 49–59

The review looks at the development of library and information plans (LIPs) in Britain and the characteristics of the literature produced by them. It examines some of the features of interim reports and of final reports, looking specifically at the presentation of survey results, the failure to assess user needs, and the nature of proposals. It concludes that the success or otherwise of LIPs will be judged by their practical results rather than by the quality of their literature. The review is supported by a complete list of LIPs completed or in progress at August 1988, followed by references to their reports.

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Evaluating online and CD-ROM reference sources
J A LARGE 87–108

The article examines the criteria by which online services and CD-ROM products might be evaluated, which are not necessarily the same as those used to evaluate printed reference works. This is done under three main headings: databases, hosts and telecommunications networks.

Continuing education and training for academic library staff
N ROBERTS and T KONN 109–28

Some 52 university and 30 polytechnic librarians were questioned about forms of continuing education and training in their libraries. Induction and further education issues were explored, as well as attitudes to the idea of continuing education. The survey took place between November 1987 and January 1988. A response rate of 87 per cent was achieved. Marked differences in practices were revealed between polytechnic and university libraries. Responses indicated a growing interest in continuing education, often influenced by factors outside the direct control of librarians.

Education for conservation in British library schools: current practices and future prospects
JOHN FEATHER and ANNE LUSHER 129–38

Conservation of materials has recently become a more urgent issue than for many years past, and is prominent at both national and international levels. It is now seen as an important aspect of collection management, and it is in that context that it is appearing in library school curricula. A recent study undertaken by the authors, with funding from BLR&DD and BLHSS (Preservation Services), has shown that the schools are reflecting the growing interest of practitioners and students in this area of librarianship.

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Confessions of an online searcher
C C PARKER 139–44

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OPAC research in the UK
DEREK GREENWOOD 157–73

The rapid pace of OPAC implementation in this country is providing a fruitful environment for research, with a wide range of projects currently being undertaken, including a number concerned with the application of advanced information retrieval techniques to OPAC systems. This article reviews the current situation and describes some of the more important research projects being undertaken, particularly those funded by the British Library Research and Development Department. A brief description of the British Library's own OPAC project is also provided. The article concludes with an examination of the value of OPAC research and a look at where further research effort might best be concentrated.

Public library services as information networks: Nigeria in the twenty-first century
MARY ELLEN CHIJIOKE 174–85

Public libraries in Nigeria have failed to meet the needs of the majority of the population. This article examines the reasons why, and sets out a programme for the development of community information centres, serving both the urban and rural populations and integrated into multipurpose community libraries. The central public library service needs to support community-based libraries with services and provide a link to the worldwide network of information. Changes necessary to the curricula of library schools to train community information workers are outlined. This article is based on a paper given at the 25th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Library Association, Abeokuta, March 1987.

Academic library cooperation and document supply
A F MacDOUGALL, H WHEELHOUSE and J M WILSON 186–99

The article discusses options for cooperative document supply which formed part of a large research project in the East Midlands. Modelling was carried out, based on collected data, to establish the cost-effectiveness of various forms of document supply. It was concluded that only if British Library Document Supply Centre (BLDSC) charges were to rise substantially would a local system become worthy of serious consideration as a potential cost saver: figures were suggested at which it would be cost-effective to consider local schemes if BLDSC moved towards full cost recovery. The possibility of contracting out was also considered.

Communication

A comment on British Library microform publications
JULIAN WARNER 200–1

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Library and information science research
R T BOTTLE 202–7

A pyramidal model is put forward to explain why library and information research (LIS) is at least an order of magnitude less in quantity than that in science and technology. The effect of the growing information industry on this model is discussed. Current Research for the Information Profession *is sampled and a scientometric review provided. A recent review of LIS academic research in the UK is commented on. Half-life data are used to criticize the rather tardy publication of a recent conference proceedings.*

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The design of a Chinese/English library system: a Hong Kong librarian's perspective
GRACE CHENG 225–45

This article gives an overview of the major considerations and problems in designing a Chinese/English library system outside of China, Taiwan and the USA. It investigates the international scene in Chinese data processing. Questions on input methods, the machine representation of Chinese characters, the availability and suitability of Chinese input-output systems and bibliographic utilities on the market, and the MARC formats and data structure of library systems are explored. This leads to the logical conclusion that standardization is of prime importance in the automation of Chinese systems. Without it, librarians will have to make difficult decisions and face the consequence of not being able to communicate and share resources.

The BNB Research Fund: cutting across the boundaries
DEREK GREENWOOD 246–59

This article describes the work of the BNB Research Fund, which is administered by the British Library Research and Development Department. Terms of reference and major activities of the fund are included. A number of areas for future research are identified.

Community libraries: a brief review of their origins and nature with particular reference to South Africa
CHRISTINE STILWELL 260–9

This review of the development of community libraries draws upon a wide range of sources. Public libraries in Africa were established by colonials for colonials, and the needs of the colonized were subservient. In South Africa public libraries have been retarded by the racial policies of a succession of governments, and by the class implications of education and library provision. Their lack of relevance has resulted in a certain neutrality but this has positive implications for their potential role in information provision at present.

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Charges in libraries: a view from the German Democratic Republic [correction: Federal Republic of Germany]
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